

do have some money coming from that are located, our cow out there, those school lands, one and one-half million acres, I think we have to have a second look at how we handle the funds coming out of those lands and I would suggest that maybe later on, on this bill, we might look to that and also see if we are getting a decent rental and if those lands are being used to benefit the family farmer. And no sour grapes or anything else but I noted that, for example, my opponent in the last election has about six thousand acres of these school lands that if he had to own that same land would cost much, much more. It is kind of like a gift of about a million dollars a year from the State of Nebraska to this particular individual over what he would have to pay if he were an average person buying that land, paying interest, so on and so forth, paying taxes. Six thousand acres is a pretty good chunk of land. I mean even if you are not familiar with how big an acre is it is a whole grouping of land and so I would like to alert you that I will be looking into this bill further. I think it could be an opportunity for some of the rural areas to get more equitable return from something that is definitely located there and it changed the situation where all the milk comes down to the other place.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, I rise to support LB 39 for many of the same reasons pointed out by Senator Lamb, that this bill is simply reinstating into statutes the same percentages that were there for a number of years when we were assessing privately owned land at 35% and the school lands were paying an in lieu of tax payment of 50% to the school district that this school land is located in. Of course the rationale for that is because the school district or the school lands do not pay anything to the other political subdivisions such as the county, the NRDs, and so forth. In the end, however, they do pay an in lieu of tax payment which is relatively close to that paid by privately owned lands because of this percentage. If this bill did not pass that percentage would drop considerably. It would be dropped back to the old 50% that used to be in the statutes which was a mistake of this body when we changed from mills to a percentage of the dollar and also at that time changed from 35% on privately owned land to 100%, we should have changed at that time the value of the school lands, the in lieu of tax payment from 50% to 143% in order to stay in the same percentage. And as Senator Lamb indicated the Education Committee did have a hearing on this issue last summer. That was the